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Unpacking Your Study Abroad [brochure and streaming video]

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RESOURCES

THE BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD. (N.D.). RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016, FROM [HTTP://WWW.IESABROAD.ORG/STUDY-ABROAD/NEWS/BENEFITS-STUDY-ABROAD#STHASH.BHUdeQIO.6GRnd2o5.DPBS](http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/news/benefits-study-abroad#STHASH.BHUdeQIO.6GRnd2o5.DPBS)

FINANCING YOUR STUDY ABROAD TRIP. (2011, JULY 25). RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016, FROM [HTTP://WWW.STUDYABROAD.COM/ARTICLES/FINANCING-YOUR-STUDY-ABROAD-TRIP.ASPX](http://www.studyabroad.com/articles/financing-your-study-abroad-trip.aspx)

NAFSA: TRENDS IN U.S. STUDY ABROAD. (N.D.). RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016, FROM [HTTP://WWW.NAFSA.ORG/EXPLORE_INTERNATIONAL_EDUCATION/ADVOCACY_AND_PUBLIC_POLICY/STUDY_ABROAD/TRENDS_IN_U_S_STUDY_ABROAD/](http://www.nafsa.org/explore_international_education/advocacy_and_public_policy/study_abroad/trends_in_u_s_study_abroad/)

RECENT GRADUATES SURVEY: THE IMPACT OF STUDYING ABROAD ON RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES' CAREERS (2012., MAY) RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016 FROM [HTTP://WWW.IESABROAD.ORG/SYSTEM/FILES/RECENTGRADUATESURVEY.PDF](http://www.iesabroad.org/system/files/recentgraduatesurvey.pdf)

RISK FACTORS AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE RISK. (N.D.). RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016, FROM [HTTP://WWW.STUDENTSABROAD.COM/HANDBOOK/STRATEGIES-TO-REDUCE-RISK.PHP?COUNTRY=GENERAL](http://www.studentsabroad.com/handbook/strategies-to-reduce-risk.php?country=general)

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (N.D.). RETRIEVED MARCH 16, 2016, FROM [HTTP://WWW.STEP.STATE.GOV/STEP](http://www.step.state.gov/step)

PASSPORT



Unpacking Your Study Abroad

By Anna Williams &
George Woodard



WHAT IS STUDY ABROAD?

- A GREAT WAY TO GET ACADEMIC CREDIT OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY
- THERE ARE PROGRAMS ALL OVER THE WORLD
- THERE ARE SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM PROGRAMS WITH VARYING COSTS
- PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED IN ALMOST EVERY MAJOR
- A GREAT WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET BACK?

- EXPAND YOUR RESUME WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
- BECOME A “GLOBAL CITIZEN” WITH YOUR NEW KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
 - ALMOST ALL RESPONDENTS TO AN IES SURVEY (94 PERCENT) REPORTED THAT THE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE “CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES, AND 23 PERCENT STILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HOST-COUNTRY FRIENDS.” (IESABROAD.ORG)
- GET INVOLVED AS A PEER ADVISOR
- STUDY ABROAD AGAIN!



HOW TO STUDY ABROAD?

- CHOOSING A PROGRAM:
 - IDENTIFY THE BEST TIME TO GO, DETERMINE YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR STUDYING ABROAD, THINK ABOUT HOW INDEPENDENT YOUR EXPERIENCE NEEDS TO BE, THEN THINK OF COST, LOCATION, ETC.
 - KEEP IN MIND GPA REQUIREMENTS, PRE-REQUISITES, AND LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.
 - TALK TO YOUR LOCAL STUDY ABROAD OFFICE AND YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR.
 - HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN!
 - DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROGRAMS: FACULTY-LED, EXCHANGE, PROGRAM PROVIDERS
 - AFTER APPLYING, GET PASSPORT, VACCINATIONS, PLAN FLIGHTS AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND SECURE FUNDING



FUNDING STUDY ABROAD

- SCHOLARSHIPS - APPLY FOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND DON'T PROCRASTINATE
- UNIVERSITIES TYPICALLY ALLOW CURRENT FINANCIAL AID (GRANTS AND LOANS) TO BE USED WITH MOST STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
- GET CREATIVE WITH FUNDING-START SAVING EARLY.
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP AND SEEK MULTIPLE RESOURCES
- SEE YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFICE AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES



WHAT TO EXPECT ABROAD

- EXPECT YOUR LIFE TO BE CHANGED: A MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL GROWTH ABROAD
- EXPECT TO BE OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE: CULTURE SHOCK IS COMMON, BUT IT IS JUST A PART OF THE EXPERIENCE
- EXPECT A CHALLENGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: THIS IS AN ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE MANY OF THE SAME REQUIREMENTS THAT YOU DO ON CAMPUS
- EXPECT TO BE SAFE: WITH THE MANY CONCERNS STUDENTS AND PARENTS MAY FACE ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD, KEEPING STUDENTS HEALTHY AND SAFE ABROAD IS OF UPMOST IMPORTANCE FOR UNIVERSITIES.



WHY STUDY ABROAD?

- TO SET YOURSELF APART; ONLY 10% OF COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE US HAVE STUDIED ABROAD (NAFSA.ORG)
- FACTS ABOUT THE BENEFITS:
- PERSONAL: STUDY ABROAD EXPANDS YOUR WORLDVIEW, IMPROVES GOAL SETTING, INCREASES MATURITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND INCREASES ENGAGEMENT
- ACADEMIC: STUDY ABROAD TEACHES YOU TO ADAPT TO NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND IT HELPS GIVE CONTEXT AND APPLICATION TO WHAT YOU LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM. YOU WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE ON TIME, MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A HIGHER GPA WHEN YOU RETURN, AND YOU WILL HAVE INCREASED ACADEMIC AMBITION.
- PROFESSIONAL: STUDY ABROAD IS PROVEN TO HELP YOU NARROW AND SOLIDIFY YOUR CAREER CHOICE AND HELPS BROADEN YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK. MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO GET A JOB AFTER GRADUATION AFTER STUDYING ABROAD. (IESABROAD.ORG)